Amendments to the Abstract

Please add the following Abstract to this application.

-- A Video-on-Demand Server architecture (100, 200, 300) transmits a plurality of pre-coded programs having different bit rates across a fixed bandwidth channel (11). For each program, a generator (120 12p.1, 110, 210)-generates a plurality of different bit rate representations for each program. Each generator also provides control information at each of a plurality of successive time windows T for each bit rate representation. The control information provides a bit rate and a quality measure during each time window T. The control information enables a statistical multiplexer (16, 160, 260)-to select a bit rate representation for each program during each time window T to maximize the quality of the selected representations while not exceeding the total available channel capacity. --